

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01939 010541Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 NSC-05 /019 W

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R 010251Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5379

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

1. AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AS PART OF THEIR AMERICAN FESTIVAL WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 26, 1976, HAS PROPOSED A LIVE SATELLITE TV AND RADIO EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF US AND AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER.

2. AAA HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION ON THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF THIS PROJECT AND IS ASSURED IT PRESENTS NO PROBLEM AND IT IS LIKELY THAT AIR TIME AND RELAY FACILITIES FOR ABC AND COMMERCIAL STATIONS WOULD BE SUPPLIED FREE. ABC WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY AUSTRALIA-WIDE RADIO, TV COVERAGE AS PART OF CO-PRODUCTION WITH AN APPROPRIATE U.S. TELEVISION NETWORK. OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WILL BE CONTACTED LATER.

3. EMBASSY AND USIS FEEL THIS WOULD BE A SUPERB CONTRIBUTION TO AAA'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS WHICH WILL BE VERY COMPREHENSIVE AND NATIONWIDE. AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE WAS FIRST ACCORDED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY ARBA AND COMMITTEE HAS BEEN DONATED 5000 DOLLARS (A) BY STATE OF NSW, A LARGER DONATION WILL PROBABLY BE COMING FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

4. WHILE APPRECIATING PROBLEM FOR PRESIDENT IN SCHEDULE-
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ING SUCH A BROADCAST, WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD MAKE A MOST

FAVORABLE IMPACT ON AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC AND LAUNCH THE FESTIVAL WEEK WITH PRACTICALLY EVERY PERSON IN AUSTRALIA SEEING OR HEARING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TALKING WITH THEIR PM ABOUT THE U.S., AUSTRALIA AND OUR BICENTENNIAL.

5. THE AAA'S BICENTENNIAL EFFORTS WILL BE THE MAJOR MARKING OF THE EVENT IN AUSTRALIA, FAR EXCEEDING ANYTHING USIS CAN DO ON ITS OWN AND WE ARE HELPING IN EVERY WAY WE CAN. THERE IS GROWING INTEREST IN BICENTENNIAL. AUSTRALIA AND U.S. HAVE MUCH IN COMMON AS TO OUR DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE. SUCH A PROGRAM WOULD HIGHLIGHT THE ANNIVERSARY AND BE IN BOTH NATIONS NATIONAL INTERESTS BY LINKING OUR COUNTRIES AS WE GO INTO U.S.'S THIRD CENTURY.

6. CHARGE JOINS IN URGING POSSIBILITY OF PRIME MINISTER-U.S. PRESIDENT LIVE SATELLITE CONVERSATION BE EXPLORED. IF WHITE HOUSE RESPONSE FAVORABLE, ABC REQUESTS NAME OF U.S. TV NETWORK COOPERATING, TIME SUGGESTED IS 2200 HOURS SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1976 - THIS IS 1200 AUSTRALIAN TIME SUNDAY, MARCH 28.

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